

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 2 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are amended, and claims 14-18 are added.

See the specification at, for example, paragraphs 0039 and 0043.

The specification, Fig. 2 and the Abstract are amended, as the Examiner requested.

No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Request for Personal Interview

During a February 22, 2006 telephone interview, Examiner Royer agreed to conduct a personal interview in late March or early April of 2006. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal interview before issuing a next Office Action.

II. Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Fig. 2 is amended, as the Examiner requested. No new matter is added. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification, including the Abstract, is amended, as the Examiner requested. No new matter is added. Applicant thanks Examiner Royer for making detailed suggestions for amending the specification.

Also, the reference numerals 80 and 245 in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively, are now described in the specification. The numeral 90 in Fig. 2 is deleted.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over EP-A-0533347 to Folkins. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Folkins discloses a device in which only an AC electrical bias is applied to electrode wires 42. See Fig. 3 and col. 6, lines 23-28. Folkins also discloses DC bias supply 50. However, such a DC bias supply 50 is not provided to the electrode wires 42.

Folkins does not disclose or suggest supplying a DC electrical bias to the electrode wires 42. Therefore, Folkins does not disclose a voltage supply that electrically biases an electrode during a developing operation with an alternating current voltage and a direct current voltage, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Folkins does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1, and claim 2 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,978,633 or 5,943,539 to Hirsch et al. ("Hirsch"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 recites, and claims 3, 5 and 7 are amended to recite, an alternating current voltage that comprises waveforms having a symmetric and substantially square shapes. Hirsch does not disclose or suggest such a feature.

In particular, Hirsch discloses a device having AC source 103 and AC source 96. The AC source 103 may be chosen to have the same frequency, magnitude and phase as the AC source 96. See col. 7, lines 23-33. Hirsch does not disclose or suggest the waveform of alternating current voltage, much less waveforms having asymmetric and substantially square shapes. Therefore, Hirsch does not disclose each and every element recited in claims 3, 5, 7

and 13, and claims 4, 6 and 8-12 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-18 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 13, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite. For example, Folkins and Hirsch do not disclose or suggest an alternating current that is modulated by a triangle wave generated by a deviation oscillator, as recited in claims 14-18.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GXL/sqb

Attachments:

Replacement Sheet of Fig. 2

Substitute Specification (Marked-Up and Clean Copy)

Amended Abstract

Date: March 13, 2006

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